

CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of treating an acute wound using a wound dressing as a substitute for a biological dressing or skin graft comprising the steps of
 - a) applying the wound dressing to the wound; and
 - b) allowing the wound dressing to adhere to the wound and be left in place for a period of time until after epithelial outgrowth and vertical wicking perpendicular to the plane of the dressing and into the dressing occur, wherein the wound dressing comprises highly absorbent fibers.

Claims 2-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) The method of treating a wound according to claim 1 wherein the wound dressing comprises highly absorbent fibers selected from the group consisting of alginates, viscose, modified cellulose, polyester, polypropylene and co-polymers thereof, pectin, chitosan, hyaluronic acid or mixtures thereof, which dressing adheres to the wound while allowing outgrowth of the wound epithelium during treatment.
10. (Previously presented) The method of treating a wound according to claim 1 wherein the wound is a burn.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the dressing is non-occlusive.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the dressing comprises modified cellulose fibers which can absorb at least 25 g/g of deionized water.
13. (Currently amended) A method of treating an acute wound using a wound dressing comprising highly absorbent fibers that can absorb at least 25 g/g of deionized water comprising the steps of:
 - a) applying the wound dressing to the wound;
 - b) allowing the dressing to become adhered to the wound;
 - c) leaving the dressing in place for a period of time until after epithelial outgrowth and vertical wicking perpendicular to the plane of the dressing

and into the dressing occur and until ~~[[it]]~~ the dressing dries out to form a crust; and

- d) removing the dressing once the wound has healed.
14. (Previously presented) The method of treating an acute wound according to claim 13 wherein the wound dressing comprises highly absorbent fibers that can absorb at least 25 g/g of deionized water selected from the group consisting of alginate, viscose, modified cellulose, cellulose, polyester, polypropylene and co-polymers thereof, pectin, chitosan, hyaluronic acid fibers, other polysaccharide fibers and fibers derived from gums.
15. (Currently amended) A method for substituting a wound dressing comprising highly absorbent fibers that can absorb at least 25 g/g of deionized water for a biological dressing comprising the steps of
- a) applying the wound dressing to a wound that would otherwise be treated using a biological dressing; and
 - b) allowing the wound dressing to adhere to the wound and be left in place for a period of time until after epithelial outgrowth and vertical wicking perpendicular to the plane of the dressing and into the dressing occur~~[[s]]~~, wherein the wound dressing comprises highly absorbent fibers.
16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the wound dressing comprises highly absorbent fibers selected from the group consisting of alginates, viscose, modified cellulose, polyester, polypropylene and co-polymers thereof, pectin, chitosan, hyaluronic acid or mixtures thereof, which dressing adheres to the wound while allowing outgrowth of the wound epithelium during treatment.